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THE CHICAGO MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

The eleventh annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers was held at the University of Chicago on December 29 and 30, 1914. After seven years of sessions in the East, the Association again turned to the Middle West, in whose metropolis it had already met in 1907. The number of Eastern members present at this year's meeting bespoke their appreciation of the faithful and constant attendance of their Western colleagues at the sessions in the East.

The program was unusually full. No less than thirty-seven papers had been announced. Of these, twenty-four were read, and three unannounced ones were added. The papers read, grouped according to subject-matter, were the following:

General

- F. E. Matthes: The Evolution of the Glacial Cirque.
W. H. Hobbs: Development of Anticyclones over Continental Glaciers.
N. M. Fenneman: The Basis of Division into Physiographic Provinces.
C. R. Dryer: Natural Economic Regions.
Cyrus C. Adams (read by W. L. G. Joerg): To Advance the Standards of Geographic Education in Our Country.
J. P. Goode: A New Series of Wall Maps for Schools.
E. Van Cleef (introduced by A. P. Brigham): Geography and the Business Man.

Regional

- C. F. Brooks: The Agricultural Atlas of the United States.
C. F. Marbut: A Soil Map of the United States.
M. Jefferson: Regional Characters in the Growth of American Cities.¹
C. F. Brooks: The Snowfall of the Eastern United States.
O. D. von Engeln (introduced by A. P. Brigham): The Interpretation and Constructive Value of Authentic Instances of Geographic Control Illustrated by a Specific Case [cement factory on Cayuga Lake, N. Y.].
R. H. Whitbeck: The St. Lawrence and Its Part in the Making of Canada.
F. Carney: Human Relations in the Glacial Lake Plains of Ohio.
F. E. Williams (introduced by L. Martin): Some Influences of the Great Lakes on the Development of Wisconsin.
E. F. Bean (introduced by L. Martin): Methods of Mapping Glacial Geology in Northern Wisconsin.
N. A. Bengtson (introduced by G. E. Condra): The Influence of [the] Trans-Continental Highways [of the United States] on the Price of Wheat.
G. E. Condra: The Loesses of Nebraska.
M. R. Gilmore (introduced by G. E. Condra): Some Indian Place-Names of Nebraska.
E. Blackwelder: Origin and Development of the Rocky Mountains in the United States.
K. F. Mather (introduced by W. W. Atwood): The Canyon of the Gunnison River.
Dora Keen (introduced by H. G. Bryant): First Exploration of Some Alaskan Glaciers: Mt. Blackburn, the Harvard Glacier, College Fjord, Harri-man Fjord, and Columbia Bay.
W. S. Tower: Some Geographic Factors Influencing Brazilian Trade.

¹ Published in the *Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, Jan., 1915, pp. 19-37.

- W. D. Jones (introduced by R. D. Salisbury): Geography of Northern Patagonia.
 V. C. Finch (introduced by L. Martin): Some Geographic Factors in the Distribution of Agricultural Products in Europe.
 Ellen C. Semple: Influences of Geographic Conditions upon Ancient Mediterranean Agriculture.
 W. E. Lingelbach (introduced by G. F. Roorbach): Geographic Factors in Russian History.²

Only the strict adherence to the time limit assigned to each paper made possible the successful completion of the program in the two morning and two afternoon sessions available.

In addition, Professor A. P. Brigham, the retiring president of the Association, read his presidential address, entitled "Problems of Geographic Influence"—an eloquent appeal for more definiteness in anthropogeographical work; and Professor R. D. Salisbury gave an illustrated lecture on Porto Rico. A memorial of the late Henry Gannett by N. H. Darton, which had been announced, was not read.

The evening of December 29 was devoted to a round-table conference, led by Professor N. M. Fenneman, on the delineation of the physiographic provinces of the United States, a topic brought up at the Princeton meeting last year by Professor Fenneman's paper on the same subject and Mr. W. L. G. Joerg's paper on the natural regions of North America. Both of these papers have been printed in Volume IV of the *Annals* of the Association, just published, of which several copies were available at the meeting. A further basis for the discussion was afforded by Professor Fenneman's outline, distributed to the members prior to the meeting, and by his and Professor Dryer's papers, enumerated in the list above. Physiographic provinces were defined as regions based on unity of physiographic history. Using as a basis the valuable maps accompanying Professor Fenneman's published paper—their detail reflects the intimate knowledge of the literature of the subject, which alone made possible their compilation—the criteria used in delimiting various provinces and the varying character of the boundaries were discussed. The interest taken in the subject is attested by the fact that the U. S. Geological Survey is engaged on the same problem; the tentative map, as worked out by its committee, was exhibited by Mr. F. E. Matthes. The discussion closed with the motion that the Council of the Association appoint a committee to devote further attention to the matter.

At the afternoon session of December 30 various announcements were made. The officers elected for 1915 are: President, R. E. Dodge; First Vice-President, Mark Jefferson; Second Vice-President, Frank Carney; Secretary, Isaiah Bowman; Treasurer, F. E. Matthes. The advancement of the standards of geographic education in this country, the topic presented in Mr. Cyrus C. Adams's paper, is to be made the subject of the round-table conference at the next meeting. The efforts to improve geography teaching instituted by Mr. George J. Miller of the Mankato (Minn.) State Normal School—specifically his endeavors to organize a national association of geography teachers—met with the hearty approval of the Association, which pledged its support. Professor R. E. Dodge reported on the favorable circulation of the *Annals* outside of geographical circles, and Dr. A. H. Brooks spoke of the answers received to his circular letter

² Published in *Popular Science Monthly*, Jan., 1915, pp. 5-24.

requesting suggestions for research work, to be defrayed from the newly created research fund.

Owing to delay in construction it was not possible to hold the meetings, as expected, in Julius Rosenwald Hall, the splendid new building erected for the Department of Geology and Geography at the University of Chicago. But although not in its own home, the hospitality extended by the Department found many channels of expression. The members were the guests of the university at luncheon at the University Commons on December 29, and of Professors Salisbury, Goode, Barrows, and Tower at luncheon on December 30. The annual dinner was given at the Quadrangle Club on the evening of December 30. On this occasion, both Professor Goode and Dr. A. H. Brooks commented on the general ignorance of locational geography even among educated people and urged that it was the geographers' affair to remedy this condition. Professor Goode advocated the obligatory use in college courses of an atlas similar to the German school atlases but adapted to American requirements.

The meeting was unusually well attended. In addition to the large number of visiting and local members, a considerable number of students from the Department attended. Several of these were preparing to take their doctor's degrees in geography—an interesting commentary on the development of our science, which up to a short time ago was not recognized in our universities as a major subject for a degree. In this connection it may be remembered that the University of Chicago is, so far as known, the only one of our universities that grants the Ph.D. degree specifically in geography. The first degree was conferred in 1907; and the present considerable number of candidates bears witness to the vitality of the Department.

FIRST EXPLORATION OF THE HARVARD GLACIER, ALASKA

The first exploration of the Harvard Glacier, at the head of College Fiord, in Prince William Sound, Alaska, is reported by Miss Dora Keen, of Philadelphia, as the result of her third expedition to Alaska, from which she returned last fall. She also continued the observations of earlier expeditions relating to the changes taking place in twenty-five glaciers of College Fiord, Harri-man Fiord, and Columbia Bay, Prince William Sound. Six weeks were spent in the field.

Miss Keen's previous experience was among the glaciers of the Alps, and in two expeditions to Alaska, entirely on glaciers, on the occasion of her first attempt and final ascent of Mt. Blackburn, 16,140 feet. Her assistants were Mr. G. W. Handy, of McCarthy, Alaska, who had led her up Mt. Blackburn, an expedition requiring five weeks of dangerous glacier travel; G. A. Rabehl, also of McCarthy, experienced on Alaskan glaciers; and Mr. H. L. Tucker, of Boston, topographer, who had taken part in the Parker-Browne ascent of Mt. McKinley to 10,000 feet (1910), and the Yale Peruvian expedition's first ascent of Coropuna, 21,000 feet.